

ERC Funders Collaborative Research—a sample of what other “big vision” organizations have done

Name	Description	Who they are	What they fund/promote	How they do it
<p>Central Corridor Funders Collaborative in St. Paul, Minnesota www.funderscollaborative.org</p>	<p>“Investing beyond the rail: A group of local and national funders that strongly support the light rail line because it offers opportunities to strengthen the regional economy and make the adjacent neighborhoods better places to live, work and access opportunity.</p> <p>“The Funders Collaborative supplements the programs and investment of our member foundations by working with community groups and public agencies to encourage collaboration, investment and planning “beyond the rail.”</p>	<p>Bush Foundation • Ford Foundation • F. R. Bigelow Foundation John S. and James L. Knight Foundation • Living Cities, Inc. McKnight Foundation • The Minneapolis Foundation • Northwest Area Foundation Otto Bremer Foundation • The Saint Paul Foundation • Surdna Foundation Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota</p>	<p>Affordable housing, strong local economy, transit-oriented places, coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>For example: investments in multi-sector affordable housing, business development, and job access forums; bicycle and pedestrian connections; creating a sense of place; innovative land use policies that incentivize parks and commons; sharing information and communicating stories.</p>	<p>Envisioned as a 10-year effort with a goal of investing \$20 million over 10 years. They work with community groups, nonprofit and business coalitions, and public agencies to promote a shared vision for the corridor by contributing the time and energy of members and staff, providing access to national expertise and best practices, and investing capital through the Catalyst Fund.</p> <p>Values that inform their work: participation, fairness, comprehensive solutions, sustainability, healthy living.</p>
<p>King County Parks Foundation in Seattle, WA http://www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/partners/kingcountyparksfoundation.aspx</p>	<p>Created in celebration of the 75th anniversary of King County Parks, “The King County Parks Foundation is devoted to cultivating private-sector philanthropy to connect communities to regional trails, open space and parks and to support the resiliency of the parks system for future generations.”</p>	<p>King County Parks, in partnership with Laird Norton Wealth Management. The King County Parks Foundation is a component fund of the Seattle Foundation. Advisory board members include financial, community, and past elected leaders.</p>	<p>Connecting existing green space and trails, growing parks and trails by supporting new acquisitions of land and easement, increasing recreational opportunities across King County’s parks and trails.</p> <p>Legacy projects include: regional trails, Eastside Rail Corridor, Lake-to-Sound Trail, open space, Maury Island, parks, Tanner Landing Park.</p>	<p>Fundraising and encouraging property donations. Currently developing a marketing campaign and fundraising plan.</p> <p>Goals that inform their work: enhance the health and mobility of all individuals, families and communities; increase access to parks and trails for all residents; support and attract businesses by providing parks that contribute to a vibrant quality of life; maintain and grow green space that contributes to clean water, clean air and animal habitat.</p>

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Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust in Seattle, WA mtsgreenway.org	<p>“In 1991 local citizens came together to preserve the natural lands, wildlife, history and scenic beauty along Interstate 90 in Washington State.”</p> <p>“The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle across the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington, ensuring a long-term balance between people and nature.”</p>	Community, business , and elected leaders	Promoting sustainability, land conservation, ecological restoration, heritage preservation, farms and forests, and outdoor recreation.	<p>They facilitate collaborative community efforts around sustainability, work with public agencies and land conservation organizations to find funding and willing sellers, provide education and volunteer programs, raise funds, and provide interpretive kiosks and marketing materials.</p> <p>Values that inform their work: Share a Long-Term Vision; Under-Promise, Over-Deliver; Break Bread; Find the Middle Ground; Compromise and Collaborate.</p>
Santa Cruz Friends of the Rail & Trail (FORT) in Santa Cruz, CA santacruztrail.org	<p>“The community voice for building the 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail.” They advocated for public acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and are now working to support the timely construction of the trail. FORT is a community-based group that is fiscally sponsored by Ecology Action. They are a non-profit.</p>	Community members	Promote and fund trail construction.	They raise funds through private donations, inform the public about the corridor, write grants, and research best rail and trail practices.
Bellevue Downtown Park—Downtown Park Corporation	<p>A 20-acre park located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, WA, designed as a "respite from the activities of busy urban life.”</p>	<p>Innovative public-private partnership between City of Bellevue (Lee Springgate, Parks Director) and community leaders (John Elis headed non-profit Downtown Park Corporation).</p>	<p>To gain public support after the city’s controversial acquisition of the property in 1983, community and public leaders held an international design competition (funded as a public-private partnership) to spur exceptional ideas for a park that would define Bellevue’s character.</p>	<p>Park construction was a public-private partnership, with public bonds to kick in only after half of the total project cost was raised privately. The Downtown Park Corporation executed a multi-pronged fundraising campaign aided by a pro bono marketing campaign. The non-profit leased the property from the city and built the first phase, then turned the park over to the city. The public then supported a bond measure to fund the second phase.</p>

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Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council in Olympia, WA www.psp.wa.gov	<p>“The Puget Sound Partnership is a state agency serving as the backbone organization for Puget Sound recovery. The Partnership coordinates the efforts of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, businesses and nonprofits to set priorities, implement a regional recovery plan, and ensure accountability for results.”</p>	<p>A state agency, governed by a Leadership Council of leading citizens from the Sound, appointed by the governor. The leadership council is advised by an Ecosystem Coordination Board made up of elected officials.</p>	<p>Restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020. Region-wide priorities are: preventing pollution from urban stormwater runoff, protecting and restoring habitat, and restoring and re-opening shellfish beds.</p> <p>Programs: Executive management, external affairs, local ecosystem & salmon recovery, and performance management.</p>	<p>Lead a science-based, results-driven, publicly embraced partnership to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda.</p> <p>Provide strategic leadership and oversight; provide government, media, and community relations support; provide financial support for implementing the action agenda; work with local salmon recovery watershed groups to support collaboration and integration; and assess and measure progress.</p>